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NEWS RELEASE

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 29, 2009

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EBMUD and Freeport Regional Water Authority Face \$212,000 in Penalties for Water Code Violations in Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties

SACRAMENTO – East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and Freeport Regional Water Authority face penalties of \$212,000 for violations of their construction storm water permit, water quality certification, and conditional waiver for the Folsom South Canal Connection Project in Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties.

The Executive Officer of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a \$212,000 Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to these two dischargers for violations of the California Water Code. The two dischargers could have faced up to \$15 million in penalties. The lower proposed penalty reflects the dischargers' commitment to removing sediment which was deposited into the stream channel.

EBMUD and Freeport Regional Water Authority own the Folsom South Canal Connection Project, which is part of the Freeport Regional Water Project. The Folsom South Canal Connection Project is a linear construction project that consists of several project facility sites and two linear pipeline construction corridors, in Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties.

The dischargers failed to implement an appropriate combination of erosion and sediment control best management practices and, therefore, inappropriately discharged extracted groundwater from the pipeline into Coyote Creek, Goose Creek and Dry Creek, causing significant erosion on the bank and sediment releases into Dry Creek. The dischargers also worked in Dry Creek without proper in-stream diversions. The California Department of Fish and Game determined that the discharges to Dry Creek were harmful to fish and other aquatic life. The Dry Creek discharge will be subject to clean up under the direction of Fish and Game and the Water Board.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency responsible for preservation and enhancement of water quality. The Board may consider the complaint at its regular public board meeting on October 7, 8, or 9, 2009.